

Application No.: 09/340,283
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 57 and 65 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 56 and 64 as shown below.

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

- a) exposing a PKC ϵ to a test agent in vitro;
- b) assaying for binding of the test agent to the PKC ϵ ; and
- c) if binding is detected, selecting the test agent as a potential modulator of anxiety.

57. **(Currently Canceled)**

58. The screening method of claim 56 wherein the PKC ϵ is exposed to the test agent by contacting a cell or cell lysate comprising the PKC ϵ with the test agent.

59. The screening method of claim 56 wherein the PKC ϵ is at least partially purified.

60-63. **(Previously Canceled)**

64. **(Currently Amended)** A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

- a) exposing a functional PKC ϵ , or a cell or cell lysate comprising a functional PKC ϵ , to a test agent in vitro;
- b) determining whether the test agent inhibits PKC ϵ ; and
- c) if the test agent inhibits PKC ϵ , selecting the test agent as a potential modulator of anxiety.

65. **(Currently Canceled)**

Application No.: 09/340,283

Page 3

66. The screening method of claim 64 wherein the cell or cell lysate comprising the functional PKC ϵ is exposed to the test agent.

67. The screening method of claim 64 wherein the functional PKC ϵ is at least partially purified when exposed to the test agent.

68. **(Previously Amended)** The screening method of claim 64 wherein determining whether the test agent inhibits PKC ϵ comprises measuring an activity of PKC ϵ in the presence of the test agent.

69. **(Previously Canceled)**

70. **(Previously Amended)** The screening method of claim 64 wherein determining whether the test agent inhibits PKC ϵ comprises measuring the ability of the test agent to selectively inhibit PKC ϵ activity.

71. **(Previously Amended)** The screening method of claim 64 additionally comprising:

- c) administering to an animal a test agent that inhibits the activity of PKC ϵ ; and
- d) measuring one or more indicators of anxiety to determine whether the test agent modulates anxiety in the animal.

72. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the animal displays one or more symptoms of anxiety in the absence of the test agent.

73. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the animal is exposed to an anxiety-provoking stimulus prior to the measuring of (d).

74. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the measuring of (d) comprises measuring an indicator of anxiety to determine whether the test agent reduces anxiety in the animal.

75. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the one or more indicators of anxiety is/are selected from the group consisting of: time spent and distance traveled in the center of

Application No.: 09/340,283

Page 4

an open field, time spent and distance traveled on the open arms of an elevated plus maze, basal and stress-induced levels of stress hormones.

76. (Previously Amended) A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

- a) selecting an agent that inhibits PKC ϵ as a test agent;
- b) administering the test agent to an animal; and
- c) measuring one or more indicators of anxiety to determine whether the test agent modulates anxiety in the animal.

77. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the animal displays one or more symptoms of anxiety in the absence of the test agent.

78. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the animal is exposed to an anxiety-provoking stimulus prior to the measuring of (c).

79. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the measuring of (c) comprises measuring an indicator of anxiety to determine whether the test agent reduces anxiety in the animal.

80. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the one or more indicators of anxiety is/are selected from the group consisting of: time spent and distance traveled in the center of an open field, time spent and distance traveled on the open arms of an elevated plus maze, basal and stress-induced levels of stress hormones.